BASED ON THE VIRTUAL WORLD PHENOMENON *FREE REALMS!*

FreeRealms™

#1

SEP 09

Exclusive In-Game Reward Inside! Collect all 12. See page 28 for details on collecting the SPIDER BITE SWORD!

LEWIS • BURAN • MARTINEZ

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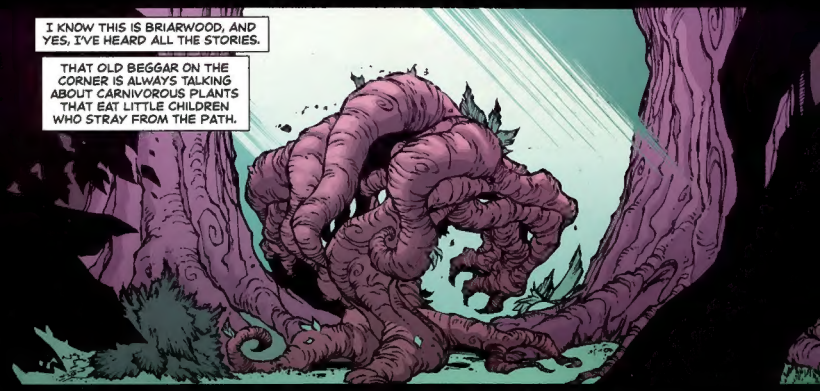


Written by J.S. Lewis · Pencils by Jon Buran · Inks by Allen Martinez
Colors by Bill Crabtree · Lettered by Johnny Lowe · Assistant Edited by Kristy Quinn
Edited by Shannon Eric Denton

I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT HEDGE CLIPPERS...
...OR MAYBE EVEN A LAWNMOWER.
OOMPH...!
I'M GOING TO FEEL THAT IN THE MORNING.

WAIT A MINUTE...YOU'RE NOT THE QUEEN'S LITTLE COUSIN...

OKAY..I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO SOUND STUPID, BUT HOW IN THE HECK DID YOU DO THAT?
SORRY, I DON'T GIVE AWAY FAMILY SECRETS.
OH... AND YOU'RE WELCOME.
MY NAME IS DANE KENSINGTON, THE THIRD. BUT MY FRIENDS JUST CALL ME...
I'M NOT YOUR FRIEND.
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER...
...BUT IF I WERE *YOU*, I'D TURN AROUND AND GO HOME. BRIARWOOD ISN'T SAFE FOR CHILDREN.
MISSING
REWARD
WHY DON'T WE TEAM UP? YOU CAN BE THE MUSCLE, AND I'LL BE THE BRAINS.
WHEN WE FIND THE GIRL WE CAN SPLIT...
THANKS, BUT I DON'T PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS.
BUT...
LOOK, THE LAST THING I NEED IS SOME WANNABE HERO FOLLOWING ME AROUND. BESIDES, EVERY PREDATOR IN THE FOREST CAN SMELL YOUR STENCH.
WHAT IS THAT ANYWAY, ROAD KILL?
COME ON, FATE BROUGHT US TOGETHER.
BESIDES, I REALLY NEED THAT REWARD. MY GRANDMA'S SICK, AND...
YOU AREN'T A VERY GOOD LIAR.
OKAY, MAYBE SHE'S NOT SICK, BUT...
DO YOU EVEN KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THE FOREST?
IT'S FILLED WITH SPORE ZOMBIES...
...AND GIANT SPIDERS...
...AND DARKTHORNE'S CHUGAWUG SOLDIERS. YOU WON'T LAST TEN MINUTES.

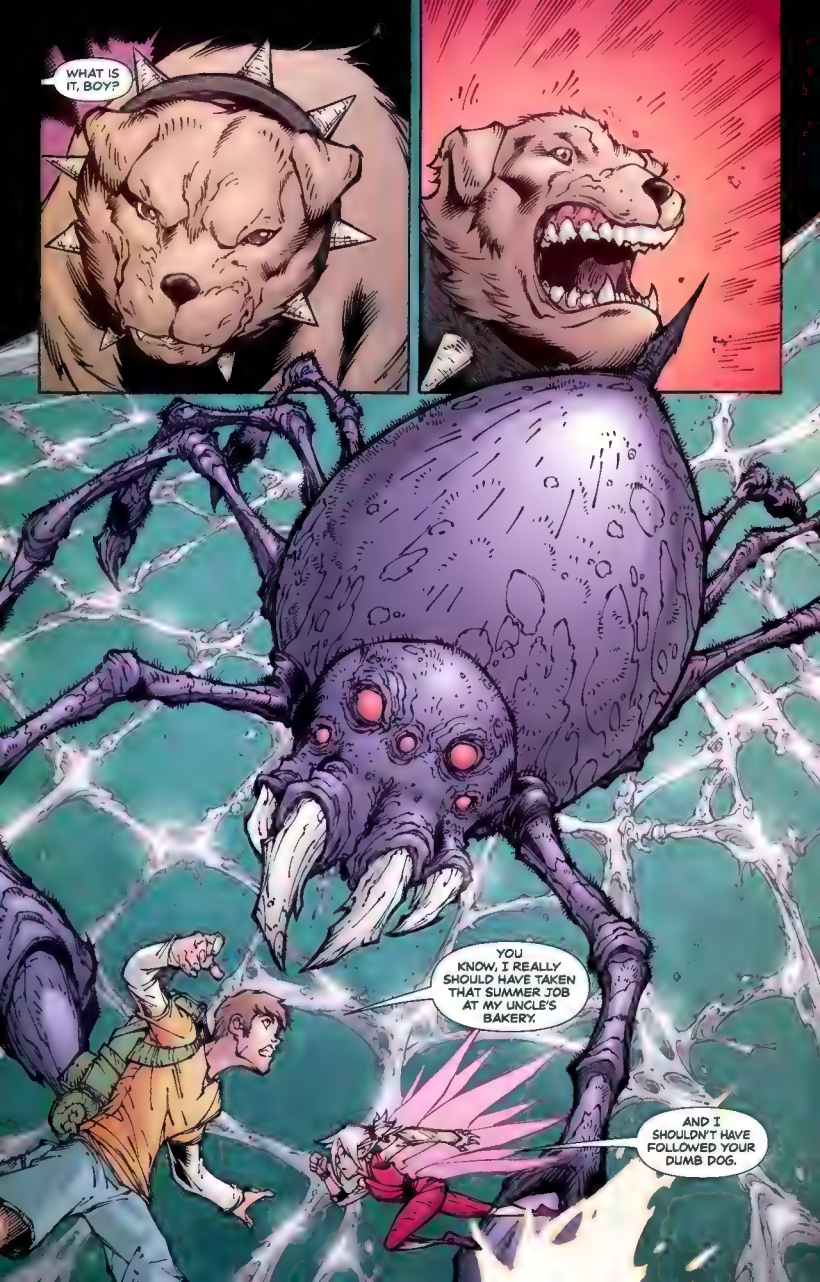
MY MOM USED TO TELL ME THOSE STORIES WHEN I WAS A KID. I'M NOT SCARED.
YOU SHOULD BE.
I'M GOING TO FIND THE GIRL.
SO YOU CAN EITHER GO WITH ME, OR I'LL FIND HER FIRST AND KEEP ALL THE MONEY.
CAN YOUR MUTT TRACK A SCENT?
OF COURSE. IT'S HIS SPECIALTY.
WHAT IS THAT?
THE LITTLE GIRL'S HANDKERCHIEF. I GOT IT FROM HER NANNY.
IF YOUR DOG IS AS GOOD AS YOU SAY HE IS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRACK HER DOWN AND GET BACK BEFORE NIGHTFALL.
YOU KNOW, YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME YOUR NAME...
MAYA.
THAT'S IT? JUST MAYA?

SO DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE HAVE A DEAL?
FOR NOW...
HEY... WAIT FOR ME!
"I SAID WAIT UP!"

I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE WAS A GOOD TRACKER.
ALL DOGS ARE GOOD AT TRACKING.

IS IT JUST ME, OR IS THAT KIND OF FREAKY?

UNLESS YOU WANT TO GET STUCK IN THAT THING FOREVER, I WOULDN'T TOUCH IT.
REMEMBER HOW YOU TOLD ME THAT I WAS IN OVER MY HEAD?
I THINK YOU WERE RIGHT.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE MADE THOSE WEBS?
HAS ANYBODY EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU TALK TOO MUCH?
IT'S JUST THAT I'M KIND OF SCARED OF SPIDERS.
AND I BET THAT IT WOULD TAKE A SPIDER THE SIZE OF A HORSE TO MAKE A WEB LIKE THAT.
THAT'S NOT GOOD...
SO NOW WHAT?
THIS WAY!


WHAT IS IT, BOY?
YOU KNOW, I REALLY SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THAT SUMMER JOB AT MY UNCLE'S BAKERY.
AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR DUMB DOG.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN THAT BAG OF TRICKS TO TURN IT INTO A GERANIUM?
HOW ABOUT A GIANT CAN OF BUG SPRAY?
OR MAYBE AN OVER-SIZED FLYSWATTER?
STOP CHATTERING AND WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL.
AND HERE I THOUGHT THINGS COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE.

SUCH A TENDER MORSEL...ARE THERE MORE OF YOU, I WONDER?
WE HAVE BEEN CRAVING THE SWEET NECTAR OF A PIXIE, AND I'D HATE TO KEEP YOU ALL TO MYSELF.
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE ANY BUG SPRAY...
DANE!
WHAT THE HECK.
MMMMMM MMMM MMMM!

THIS PIXIE SEEMS TO HAVE A STING...
ENOUGH!

YOU MAY BE THE SISTER OF OUR QUEEN, BUT YOU HAVE NO CLAIM HERE, SPINNRETTE.
SHE'S MINE!
WHAT HAVE WE COME TO THAT WE WOULD LOWER OURSELVES TO FEED ON INNOCENT LIVES? ARE THESE WOODS NOT TEEMING WITH FOOD?
WHY DID YOU ATTACK THEM?
THEY TRESPASSED, AND NOW THEY'RE GOING TO PAY.

THE STORM FRONT

The Salón Internacional del Cómic de Barcelona was a fantastic event here in Spain and many thanks go out to David Macho Gómez, his wife Paloma, his assistants Anna, Guillermo and Herman and everyone else who came out for the convention. I've met so many incredible people here—from the Mayor of Barcelona and the Cultural Minister of Catalan, to all the fans that stood in line. Thanks again for all the great memories, and I can't wait to do it all over again soon!

While the con left me exhausted and crushed, I'm already recharging my batteries for the onslaught that is the San Diego Comic-Con, which happens this month. I don't know how Europeans can come and do five days with jetlag, though it's usually better going West than East. Fortunately, it's right in my own proverbial backyard, so I'm already there.

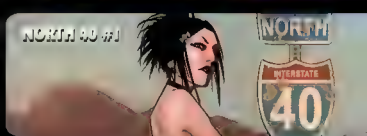
Moving from red eyes to red herrings, August sees the release of a new six-issue mini from the twisted mind of David Tischman with stylishly fun visuals from Philip Bond and David Hahn. Government conspiracies involving aliens, con men and sexy lead characters prove to be a potent cocktail in the aptly titled RED HERRING. Teddy "Red" Herring and Maggie MacGuffin are the unlikely pair at the center of this gripping, real-world adventure mixing danger and humor where the only proof that it exists is that you just read it.

Over in the regular WildStorm Universe, the art team of Shawn Moll and Drew Geraci join Christos Gage as our year-long back-up event takes center stage in WILDCATS #13 as we head into the big events planned for 2010. Look for extra pin-ups and character bios introduced in the titles as we piece together the big WildStorm picture!

For all the up-to-the-second news, log onto http://twitter.com/wildstorm/ or http://twitter.com/jimlee00/ and join the Twitter-obsessed. Nothing gives me more pleasure than going over the allotted 140 characters, editing the sentence to the essentials, bringing it back under the limit and then re-adding characters and punctuation to hit exactly 140.

JIM LEE

OUT THIS MONTH!



COLLECTED EDITIONS:
CHUCK TPB
ASTRO CITY: BROTHERS AND OTHER STRANGERS TPB
WILDCATS: WORLD'S END TPB

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at **wildstorm.com**

IN STORES JULY:

ASTRO CITY: THE DARK AGE Book 3 #3
AUTHORITY #12
FREDDY vs JASON vs ASH: THE NIGHTMARE WARRIORS #2
FREE REALMS #1
GEARS OF WAR #9
KILLAPALOOZA #3
NORTH 40 #1
PROTOTYPE #4
STARCRAFT #3
STORMWATCH PHD #22
TOM STRONG: AFTER WATCHMEN #1
WILDCATS #13
WORLD OF WARCRAFT #21

NEXT ISSUE: FREE REALMS #2

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ARE YOU PREPARED TO SUFFER FOR YOUR CLAIM?
SOON YOU'LL BE GONE, AND THE SCAVENGERS WILL FEED ON YOUR ROTTING CARCASS. YOUR SISTER WILL FOLLOW, AND THEN I WILL RULE OUR KIND.
PERHAPS. BUT UNTIL THAT DAY, I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO STAND AGAINST YOU AND YOUR THUGS.
WE MUST HURRY.
THANK YOU.

YOU ARE BOTH VERY FOOLISH TO HAVE COME HERE.
YEAH... WELL I KIND OF GET THAT NOW. IT'S JUST THAT MY DOG...
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A LOST CHILD THAT WANDERED INTO THE FOREST.
I HAVE HEARD WHISPERS THAT A HUMAN CHILD WAS TAKEN BY THE SPORES.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY TOOK HER?
I WILL ESCORT YOU TO A TRAIL THAT ISN'T FAR FROM HERE. IT WILL LEAD YOU TO THE GIRL.
THERE HAS BEEN UNREST IN BRIARWOOD. THE CREATURES THAT LIVE IN THE SHADOWS ARE GROWING TENSE...
... THERE IS ANGER AND FEAR.
IF YOU FIND THE GIRL, YOU MUST LEAVE QUICKLY. DARK THINGS ARE ON THE MOVE.
YOU MEAN LIKE YOUR FRIENDS BACK THERE THAT TRIED TO EAT US?
WORSE.
GOOD BOY!
THIS IS WHERE I MUST LEAVE YOU.

FreeRealms™

CLAIM YOUR REWARD!

NEW ACCOUNTS

1. GO TO THE ***FREE REALMS*** WEBSITE - HTTP://WWW.FREEREALMS.COM
2. ENTER THE CODE INTO THE TEXT FIELD IN THE "REDEEM-A-CODE" BOX ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE HOME PAGE
3. CLICK THE GREEN "GO!" BUTTON
4. THESE CODES WORK WITH NEW AND EXISTING ACCOUNTS, SO IF YOU'RE A NEW PLAYER YOU'LL HAVE TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT AT THIS POINT IF YOU WANT TO CLAIM THE CODE, ON THE ***FREE REALMS*** LOG IN PAGE, CLICK THE "DON'T HAVE AN ACCOUNT?" HYPERLINK.
5. COMPLETE THE NEW ACCOUNT REGISTRATION
6. THE "CONGRATULATIONS!" SCREEN WILL APPEAR, ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR SUCCESSFUL CODE REDEMPTION AND YOUR RECEIPT OF THE IN-GAME ITEM

ENTER THIS CODE

7. CLICK "OK"
8. CLICK "CONTINUE"
9. CLICK "PLAY NOW!"
10. THE GAME WILL LOAD IN A NEW WINDOW
11. YOU'RE IN! NOW CLICK THE SC ICON IN THE GAME DOCK!
12. SELECT THE "CLAIM" BUTTON TO LOAD THE ITEM CLAIM SCREEN
13. YOU'LL SEE THE ***SPIDER BITE SWORD*** ITEM IN YOUR PENDING CLAIMS. SELECT IT BY RUNNING THE CURSOR OVER IT AND LEFT-CLICKING, THEN CLICKING ON THE GREEN "CLAIM" BUTTON ON THE RIGHT!
14. ENJOY YOUR ***SPIDER BITE SWORD*** ITEM!

EXISTING ACCOUNTS

1. LOG IN AND LAUNCH ***FREE REALMS*** USING THE ACCOUNT AND CHARACTER YOU'D LIKE TO CLAIM THE REWARD ON
2. SELECT THE SC ICON ON THE GAME DOCK
3. SELECT THE "CLAIM" BUTTON TO LOAD THE ITEMS CLAIM SCREEN
4. ENTER THE CODE INTO THE TEXT FIELD IN THE "REDEEM-A-CODE" BOX ON THE TOP OF THE WINDOW
5. YOU'LL SEE THE SPIDER BITE SWORD ITEM IN YOUR PENDING CLAIMS. SELECT IT BY RUNNING THE CURSOR OVER IT AND LEFT-CLICKING, THEN CLICKING ON THE GREEN "CLAIM" BUTTON ON THE RIGHT!
6. ENJOY YOUR SPIDER BITE SWORD ITEM!

SPIDER BITE SWORD

WHAT IS IT, BOY?

IT LOOKS LIKE TROLLS... OR...
OR WHAT?
...CHUGAWUGS.
DO YOU THINK THIS WAS HERS?
IT'S OKAY. THEY'RE GONE.
WHO ARE YOU?
MY NAME IS VITTORIO.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO USE THIS ROAD ARE BANDITS AND THIEVES.
I'M NO CRIMINAL, YOUNG MASTER. I'M A SIMPLE MERCHANT WHO WAS TAKING SUPPLIES TO AN OUTPOST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BRIARWOOD.
OUR CARAVAN WAS ATTACKED BY MONSTERS THAT SPRANG FROM THE WOODS.
WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE?
GONE, I'M AFRAID.
IT WAS DARKTHORNE'S CHUGAWUG BRUTES. THEY AMBUSHED US AND TOOK EVERYTHING.
I HAD HIRED MERCENARIES, OF COURSE. MOST FLED, AND THOSE THAT FOUGHT STOOD NO CHANCE AGAINST THE BEASTS.
OUR WORST FEARS ARE COMING TRUE. DARKTHORNE IS RAISING AN ARMY OF HER HIDEOUS MONSTERS TO OVERTHROW THE QUEEN.
I'VE SEEN THEM...VERMIN... SPIKED PLANTS... GLADSTALKERS...AND MAN-EATING PLANTS.
VINES WILL RISE LIKE TENTACLES FROM THE GROUND, TEARING BUILDINGS FROM THEIR FOUNDATIONS!
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO BRING A STRAITJACKET, DID YOU? THIS GUY ISN'T PLAYING WITH A FULL DECK.
NO KIDDING.

IS IT JUST ME, OR DO THEY LOOK KIND OF HUNGRY?
To be continued...